DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 417 686 HE 031 145

AUTHOR	Grenzke, Janet
TITLE	Part-Time Faculty: Quality Issues.
INSTITUTION	National Education Association, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	1998-03-00
NOTE	10p.
AVAILABLE FROM	National Education Association, Office of Higher Education, 1201 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington DC 20036; phone: 202-822-7100.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
JOURNAL CIT	Update; v4 n2 Mar 1998
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adjunct Faculty; Higher Education; *Part Time Faculty; Quality of Working Life; Sex Differences; Teacher Attitudes; Teacher Salaries; *Unions

ABSTRACT

This publication presents 14 graphs providing data from interviews with 800 part-time college faculty 396 union members and 404 non-members. Results for union members and non-members are reported separately in each graph. The graphs illustrate the following major findings: (1) over two-thirds of part-time faculty hold other jobs; (2) almost half spend at least 20 hours per week at their other jobs; (3) part-time faculty are experienced and provide a stable workforce for their institutions; (4) about half of part-time faculty earn less than $2,500 per course; (5) humanities, English, and languages have the highest percentage of part-time faculty; (6) more women prefer part-time for personal reasons; (7) compared to a 1993 study, multiyear contracts are much less frequent; (8) part-time faculty in states with bargaining units are much more likely to hold office hours than part-time respondents in the 1993 study; (9) part-time faculty are more likely to be evaluated by students and administration than peers; (10) part-time faculty are divided between preferring part-time and preferring full-time positions; and (11) future part-time employment is dependent on a formal evaluation for just over half of part-time faculty. (DB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 417 686

NEA HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 2 • MARCH 1998

Update

Part-Time Faculty: Quality Issues

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

HE 031 145

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☑ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN OTHER THAN PAPER COPY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

NEA

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

NEA HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 2 • MARCH 1998

Update

Part-Time Faculty: Quality Issues

Highlights

In a recent NEA study of part-time faculty, aproximately equal numbers of union members and non-members were interviewed in each of four states — California, Washington, Minnesota and Michigan. These states were chosen because they represent geographic diversity, have both voluntary membership and agency-fee bargaining units, and have significant numbers of part-time faculty who belong to the union.

The total sample includes interviews with 800 part-time faculty — 396 union members and 404 non-members, teaching at two- and four-year institutions.

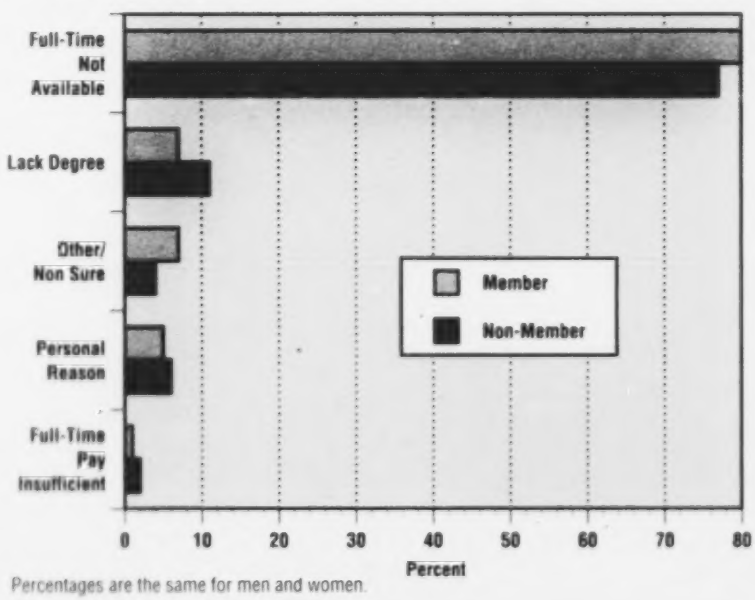
The figures included in this report separate percentages for union members and non-members, and none presents statistics for the combined sample of 800 respondents. Many times, members and non-members have virtually identical responses. Since the combined samples are not representative of any clearly defined universe, it is best to think of these results as coming from two samples of two separate populations.

Our latest information about the proportion of union members and non-members among part-time higher education faculty is five years old. In 1993, the National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF), in a mail survey, found that 12% of all part-time faculty were union members. When members and non-members differ, one could assume that non-members are more typical.

These results are not intended to be representative of all part-time faculty in the country. The results about union members are reasonably representative of the population of part-time union members at institutions with bargaining units in these four states, and the results about non-members are respresentative of part-time non-members at institutions with bargaining units in these four states.

Figure 1

REASONS THOSE WHO PREFER A FULL-TIME POSITION WORK PART-TIME



Percentages are the same for men and women.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 2

OVER TWO-THIRDS OF PART-TIME FACULTY HOLD OTHER JOBS

NSOPF–93: 69% of part-time faculty held other jobs

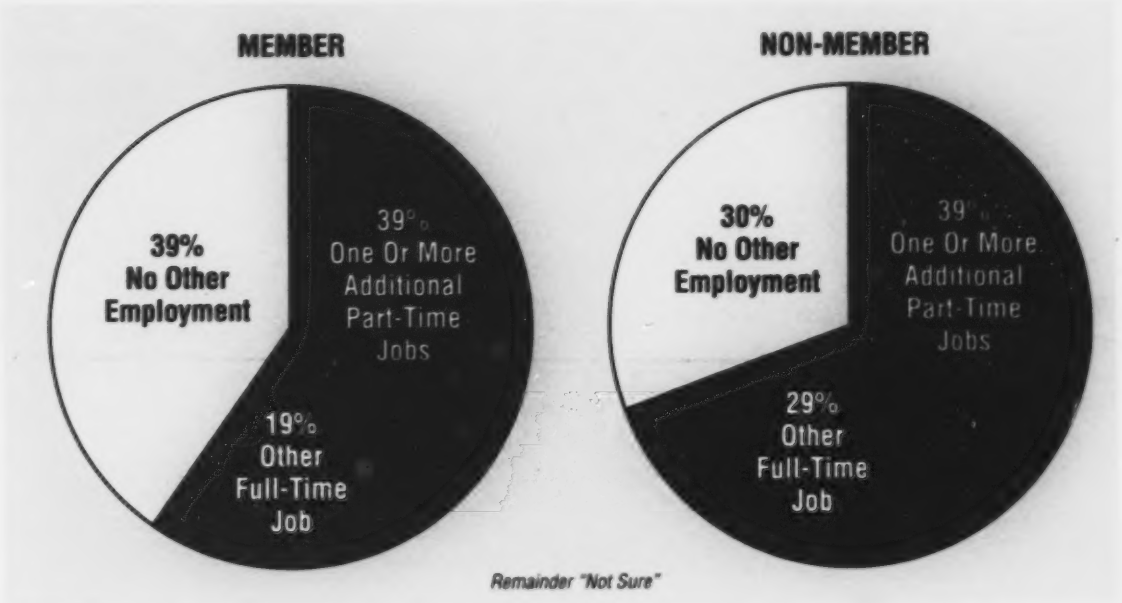


Figure 3

ALMOST HALF SPEND AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK AT THEIR OTHER JOBS

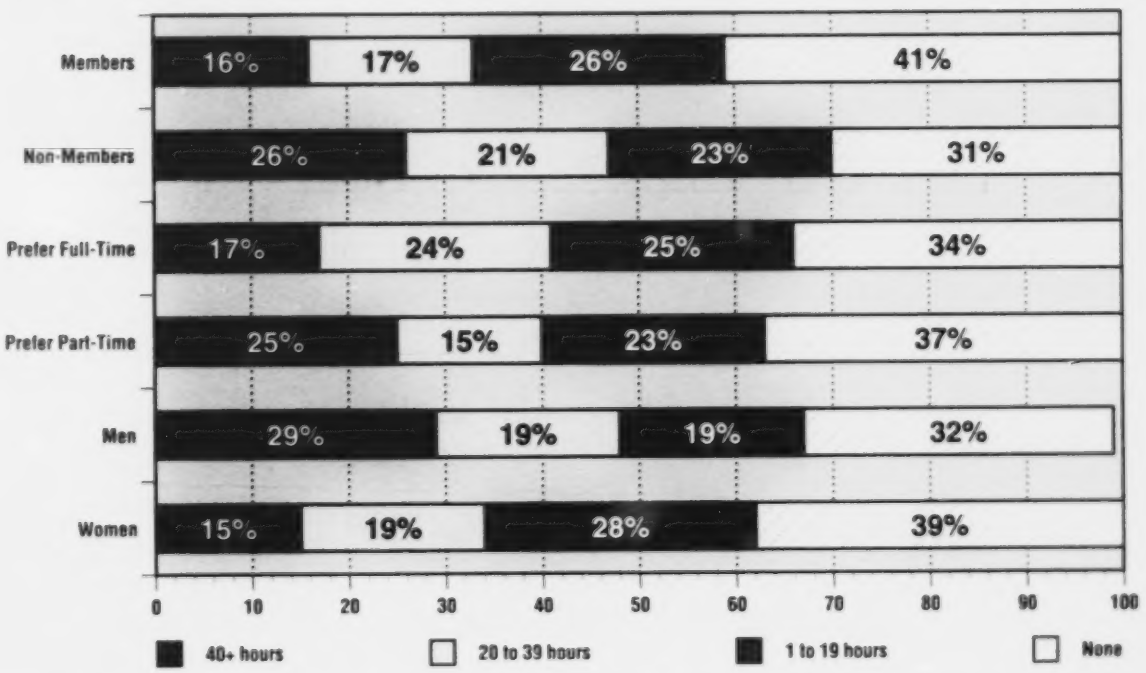


Figure 4

PART-TIME FACULTY ARE EXPERIENCED, AND PROVIDE A STABLE WORKFORCE FOR THEIR INSTITUTION

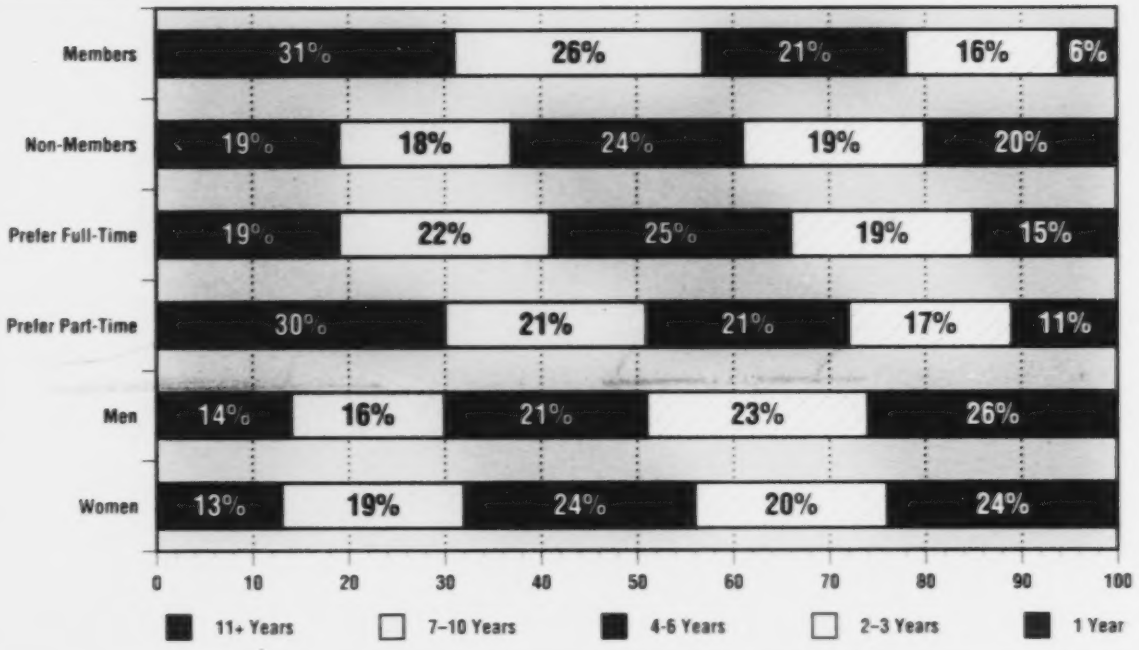
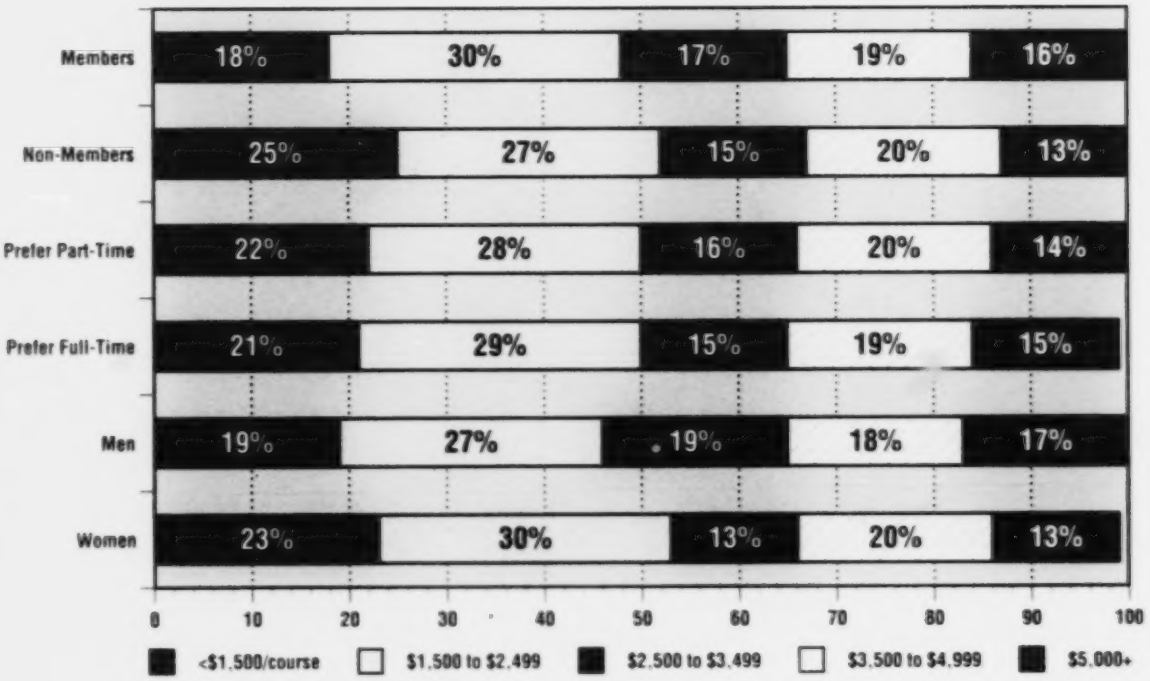


Figure 5

ABOUT HALF OF PART-TIME FACULTY EARN LESS THAN $2,500 PER COURSE



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 6

DISTRIBUTION OF PART-TIME FACULTY ACROSS DISCIPLINES

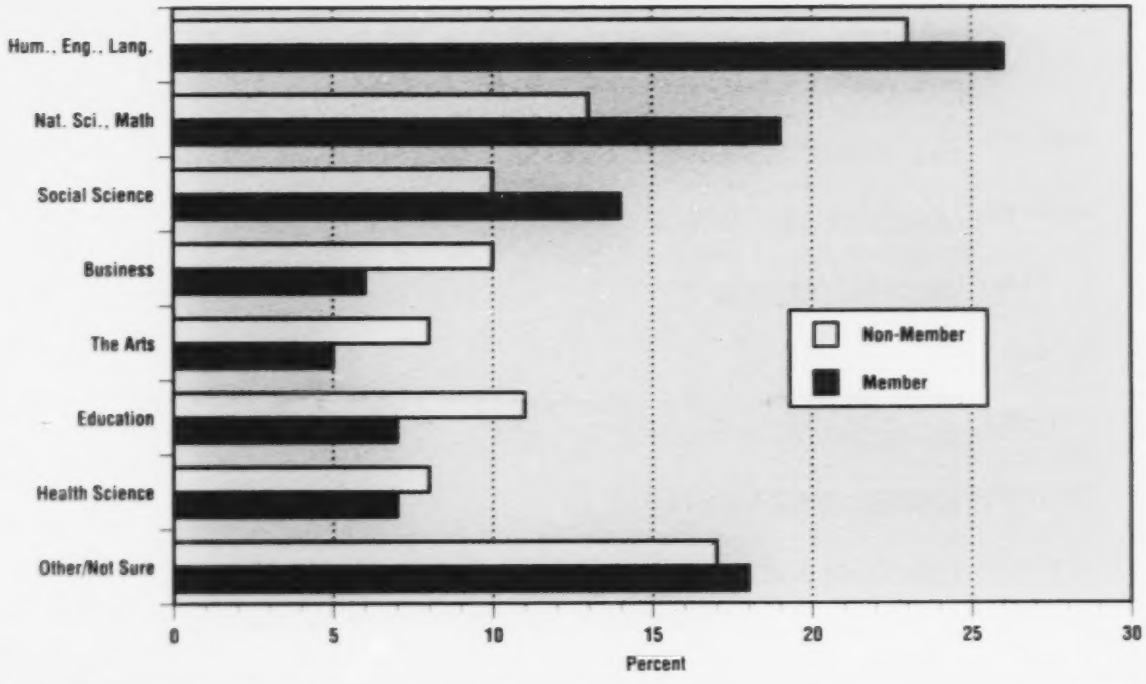


Figure 7

WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO TEACH IN HUMANITIES, ENGLISH AND LANGUAGES

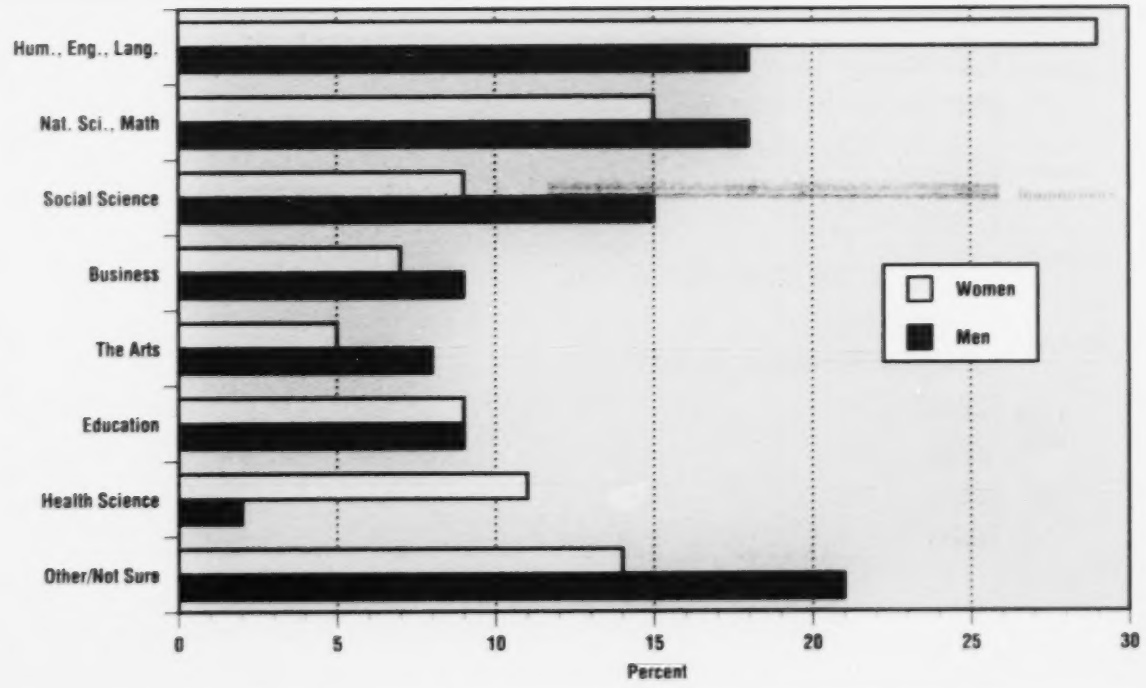


Figure 8

PART-TIME FACULTY IN THE HUMANITIES, ENGLISH AND LANGUAGES ARE MORE LIKELY TO PREFER FULL-TIME POSITIONS

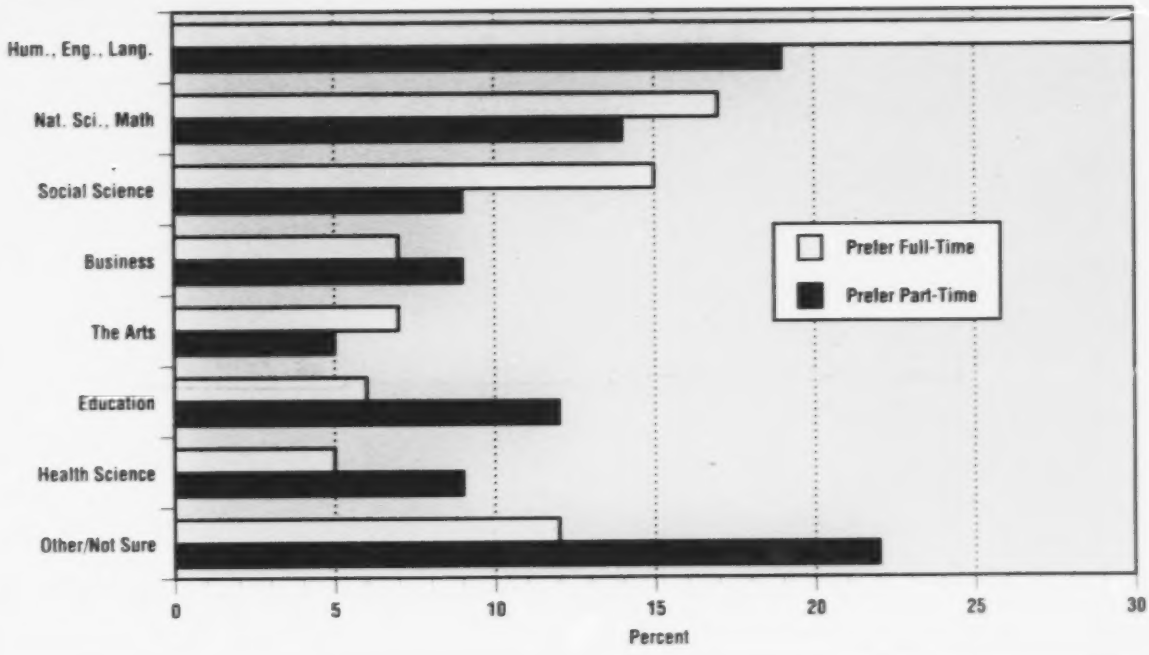
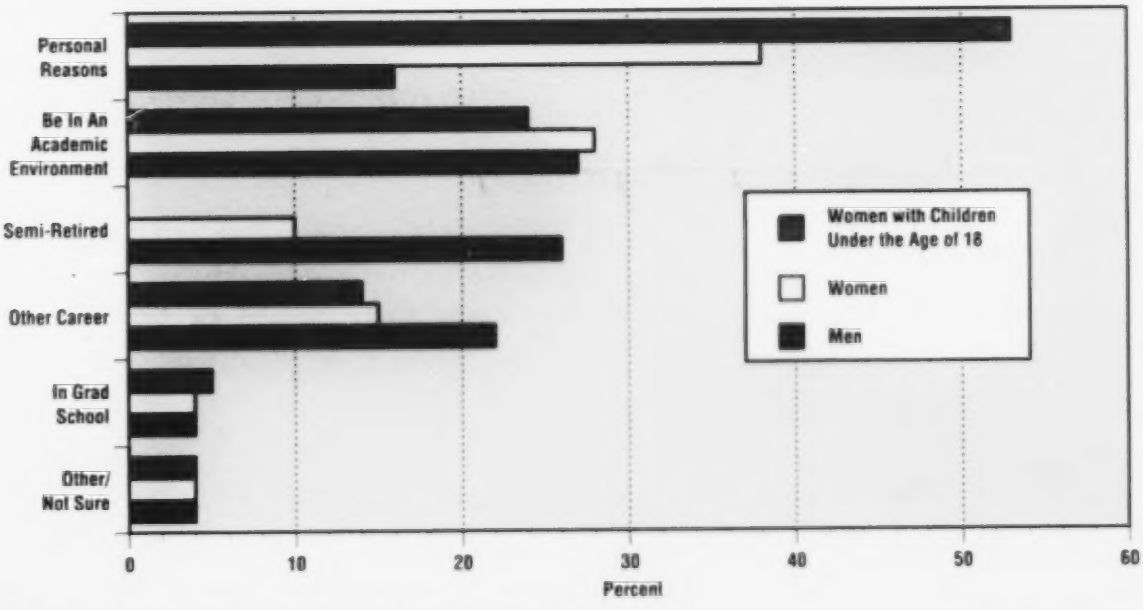


Figure 9

MORE WOMEN PREFER PART-TIME FOR PERSONAL REASONS; MEN PREFER PART-TIME FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS

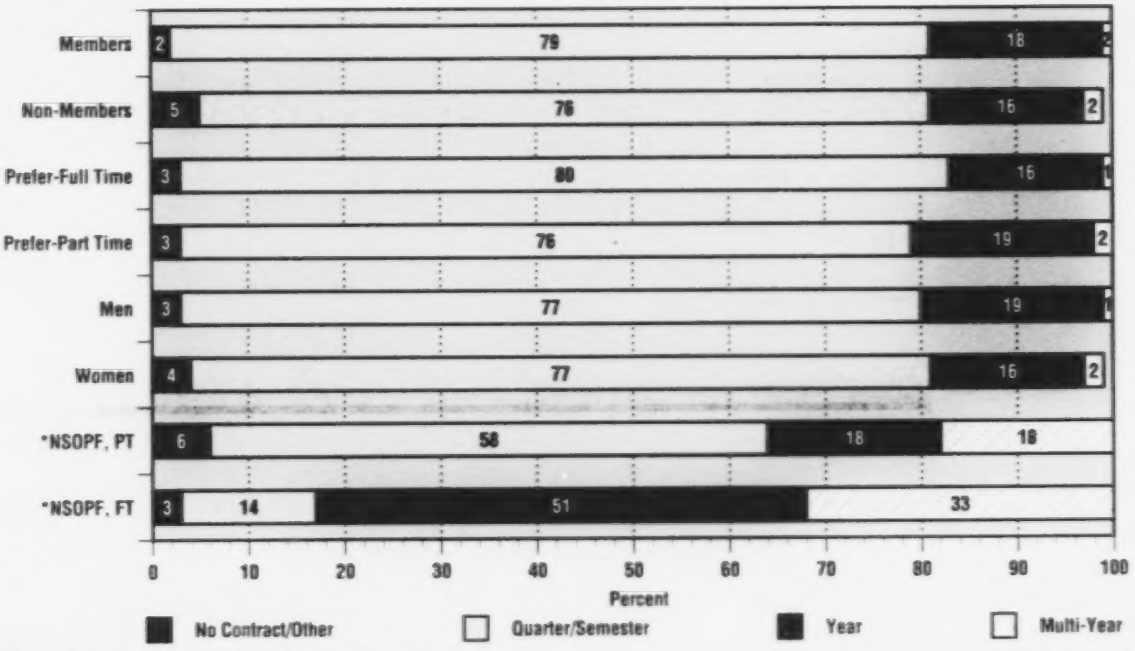


Sample size of men with children who prefer part-time is not large enough to be valid

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 10

COMPARED TO NSOPF–93, MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS ARE MUCH LESS FREQUENT



*NSOPF refers to the National Study of Postsecondary Faculty mail survey in 1993.

Remainder "Not Sure"

Figure 11

PART-TIME FACULTY IN STATES WITH BARGAINING UNITS ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO HOLD OFFICE HOURS THAN PART-TIME RESPONDENTS IN NSOPF–93

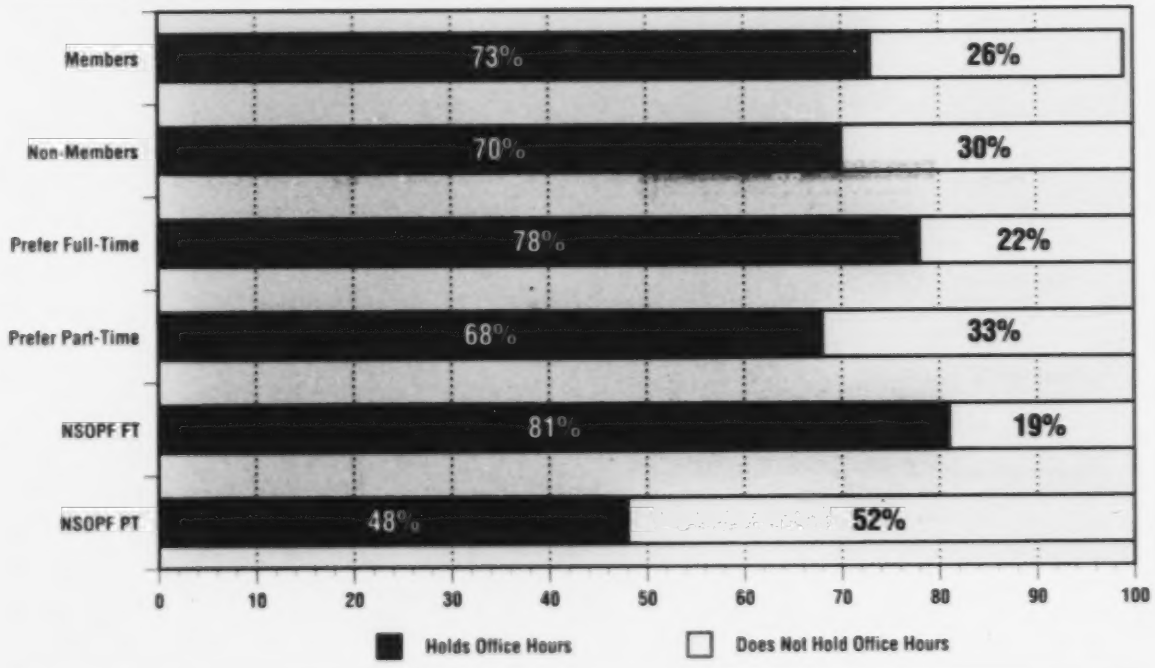
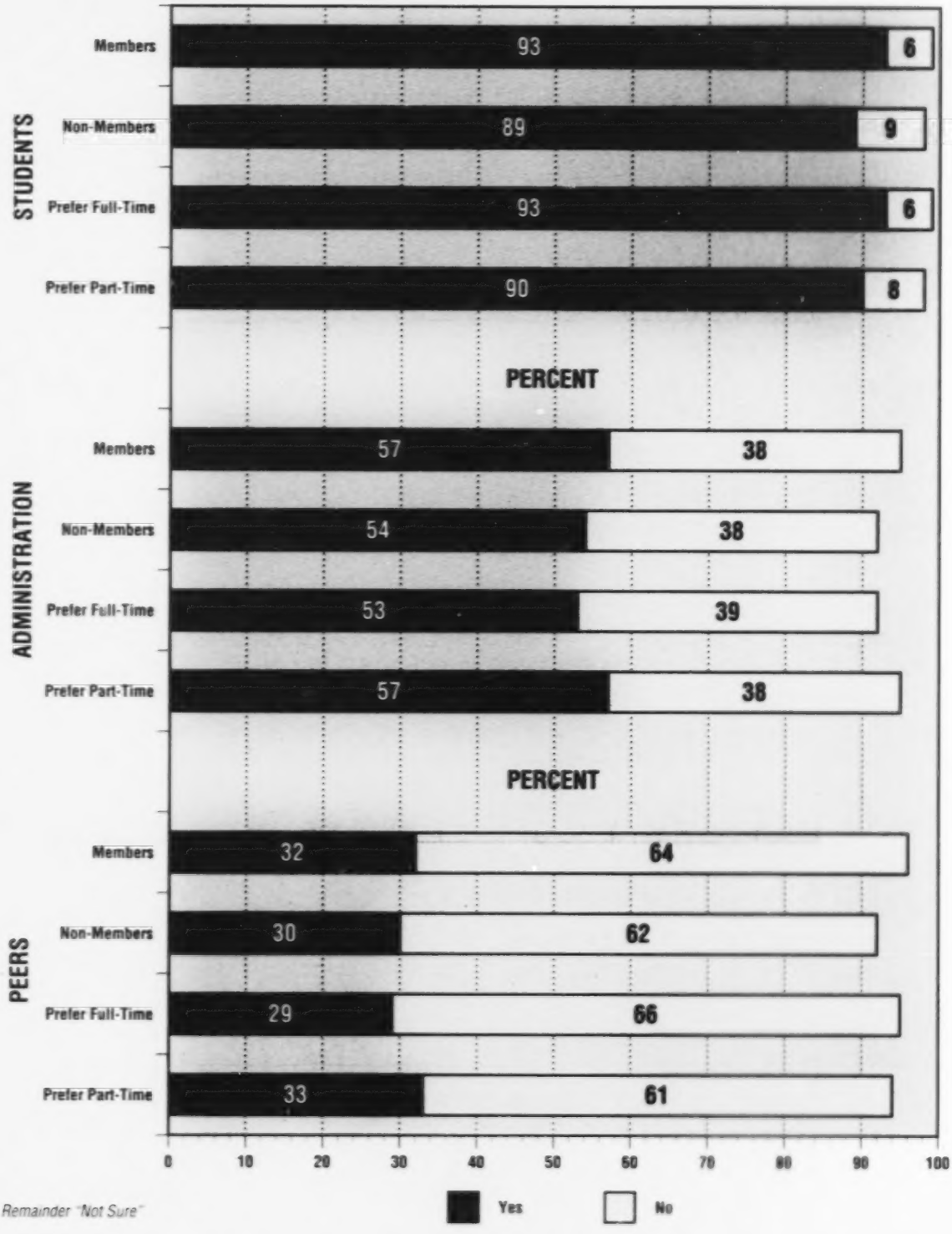


Figure 12

WHEN PART-TIME FACULTY ARE EVALUATED, STUDENTS AND THE ADMINISTRATION DO THE EVALUATING



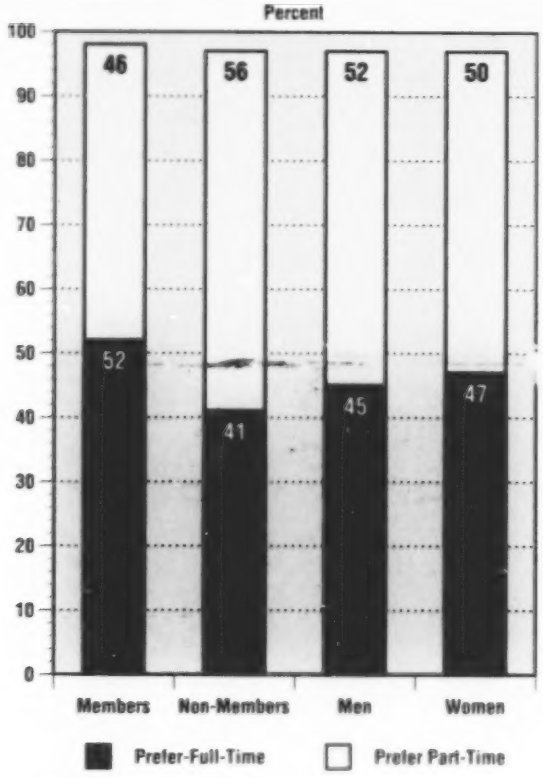
Remainder "Not Sure"

NEA HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 13

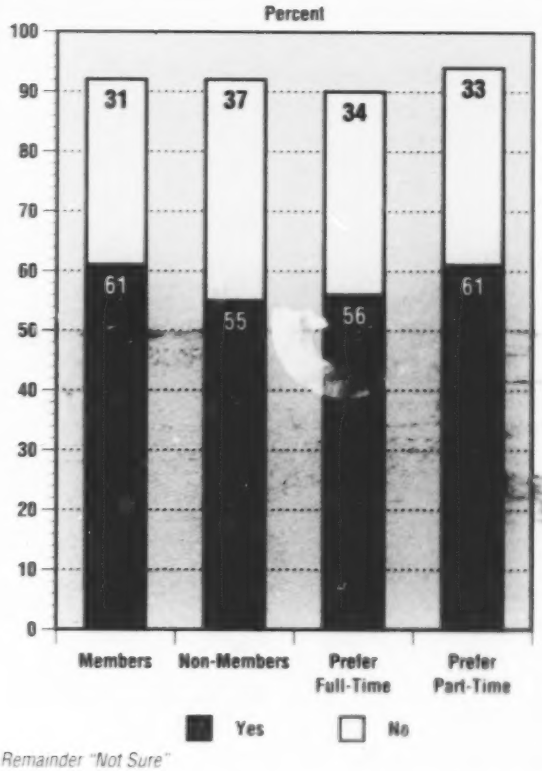
PART-TIME FACULTY ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN PREFERRING PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME POSITIONS



Remainder "Not Sure"

Figure 14

FUTURE PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT IS DEPENDENT UPON A FORMAL EVALUATION FOR JUST OVER HALF OF PART-TIME FACULTY



Remainder "Not Sure"

nea
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Office of Higher Education
1201 Sixteenth Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-822-7100

Copyright © 1998
National Education Association

Higher Education Staff

Christine Maitland — Deborah Mitchell
Rachel Hendrickson — Cathie Sheffield-Thompson
Dely Pena — Shelley Ragland

This issue written by Janet Grenzke, Abacus Associates.

To view back issues of *Update*, go to **www.nea.org/he/**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

20036 AUTO